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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 25th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. ELARABY	(Egypt)
later:	Mr. PATOKALLIO (Vice-Chairman)	(Finland)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 49 TO 65, 68 AND 142; 67 AND 69 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS UNDER ALL DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the Netherlands, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18.

Mr. WAGENMAKERS (Netherlands): On 9 December 1991, the General Assembly adopted an unprecedented resolution on transparency in armaments by an overwhelming vote. On the basis of that resolution 46/36 L - the Register of Conventional Arms was established as from 1 January 1992. Member States are requested to report, by 30 April 1993, pertinent transfers relating to the calender year 1992.

In order to help Member States in making their returns, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to set up a panel of governmental technical experts on the basis of equitable geographical representation, to elaborate the technical procedures and to make any adjustments to the annex to resolution 46/36 L necessary for the effective operation of the Register. In addition, the Secretary-General was asked to prepare a report on the modalities for early expansion of the Register by the addition of further categories of equipment and the inclusion of data on military holdings and procurement through national production.

The report of the Panel (A/47/342 and Corr.1), which, as the Committee will recall, I introduced in detail at the 7th meeting of the Committee, on 16 October last, is a consensus report. In his report "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era" (A/C.1/47/7), the Secretary-General commended the results of the Panel's work. He urged Member States:

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

"to embrace their recommendations so that we may give the Register a strong foundation and the broadest possible participation by States". (A/C.1/47/7, para. 35)

It is therefore with great pleasure that I have the honour today to introduce the draft resolution concerning transparency in armaments - document A/C.1/47/L.18 - on behalf of the following sponsors: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela. I have also just been informed by the representative of Nepal that his country will also join the list of sponsors.

The purpose of the draft resolution is to maintain momentum towards the overall political objectives set by the General Assembly. According to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would endorse the Panel's recommendations on the technical procedures and adjustments to the annex necessary for the effective operation of the Register.

As to follow-up activities to be undertaken for the further development of the Register, the General Assembly would note the suggestions offered in the Panel's report as a first step in the consideration of modalities for early expansion of the Register. The draft resolution keeps intact all that we decided last year: encouragement is given to follow the route set out,

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

using the road-map contained in resolution 46/36 L. In the meantime, Member States are called upon to provide the requested data and information to the Secretary-General annually by the due date. Since the Register of Conventional Arms constitutes a dynamic project, Member States are also encouraged to inform the Secretary-General of their national arms import and export policies, legislation and administrative procedures, both as regards authorization of arms transfers and prevention of illicit transfers, in conformity with paragraph 18 of resolution 46/36 L. The last of these points, regarding prevention of illicit transfers, is also in the spirit of resolution 46/36 H.

In the text of this year's draft resolution, stress is placed on the importance of the participation of all States in the Register, and of the need for sufficient resources to be made available for the United Nations Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register. As the Secretary-General noted in his report "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era":

> "Nothing would undermine the Register's operations more quickly than inadequate attention to the funding which is necessary to make it an effective instrument." (A/C.1/47/7, para. 36)

Especially in view of the new and additional tasks of the Office for Disarmament Affairs relating to data and information management and in view of the increased scope of the interactions of the Office with national and international organizations, the need to which the Secretary-General referred cannot be emphasized enough. Of course, we trust that in providing sufficient resources to operate and maintain the Register, the Secretary-General will, to the maximum extent, utilize currently available resources of the Secretariat.

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

Transparency in armaments encompasses more than the Register per se. It is for this reason that in the draft resolution the General Assembly would also encourage the Conference on Disarmament to continue its work undertaken in response to the requests in paragraphs 12 to 15 of resolution 46/36 L.

The provision of the data and information I referred to a moment ago will enable the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its next session a progress report on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development. In the execution of that task the Secretary-General will also have at his disposal the report of the Conference on Disarmament under its agenda item entitled "Transparency in armaments".

(Mr. Wagenmakers, Netherlands)

If all this is carried out as foreseen, the prospects will be good that the group of governmental experts in 1994 will find a sound basis when they commence their work on the continuing operation of the Register and its further development.

During the consultations on the text of the draft resolution that I have just introduced I felt very encouraged by the broad support expressed for the aims and objectives of the transparency endeavour. It is therefore the hope of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18 that it will be adopted without a vote.

Sir Michael WESTON (United Kingdom): There is an increasing awareness of the importance of transparency in armaments. The dangers of excessive and destabilizing accumulations of arms have been demonstrated by conflicts in Europe, the Middle East and Africa and elsewhere. The European Community and its member States strongly believe that transparency, coupled with restraint and responsible policies in arms transfers, increases confidence, and therefore stability, worldwide.

It was with this goal in mind that the Community and its member States strongly supported in the First Committee last year the draft resolution that established the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. Resolution 46/36 L was adopted by an overwhelming vote at last year's session of the General Assembly. The full implementation of the Register, together with participation by all United Nations Member States, will be a vital step towards transparency and confidence-building in the field of conventional arms. The Community and its member States reiterate their commitment to supply all the data and information necessary for the effective operation of the Register, and they call upon all other States also to comply fully with its requirements.

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

A further positive step has been the report by the Secretary-General's panel of governmental experts established by last year's resolution to elaborate technical procedures for the effective operation of the Register and to report on the modalities for its future expansion. The Chairman of the expert panel has introduced the report. The Community and its member States fully support the excellent work of the panel and endorse its recommendations.

We note that adjustments to the annex recommended by the panel reflect regional concerns. All States will now be able to provide, in a uniform manner, data on arms imports and exports required by resolution 46/36 L. We call upon all States Members of the United Nations to provide the requested data and information to the Secretary-General annually by the due date. The provision of such data will help to identify irresponsible and destabilizing arms transfers.

The Community and its member States welcome the fact that the Conference on Disarmament has inscribed the issue of transparency in armaments on its agenda and has begun to respond to the General Assembly's requests contained in resolution 46/36 L. We expect that the Conference on Disarmament will play a substantial role in this field - in particular, by elaborating practical means of increasing transparency in armaments, including transparency with regard to weapons of mass destruction.

The Community and its member States fully support and will co-sponsor this year's draft resolution, which recognises and endorses the panel's work. We shall cooperate closely with all interested member States in bringing an agreed text to the General Assembly. We stress the importance of having all

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

States participate in the Register and the need for sufficient resources to be made available, so far as possible from within existing resources, for the Secretariat to operate and maintain the Register.

Support for the draft resolution endorsing the report of the Secretary-General's expert panel will be an essential step on the road to the effective operation of the United Nations arms Register. This will be a major contribution to confidence-building and to the security of States in all regions of the world.

I should like at this point to address another agenda item, again on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

Under agenda item 55 the First Committee deals with the issue of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East. The European Community and its member States note that in resolutions since 1974 Egypt has called for the establishment of such a zone. Such resolutions have been adopted by consensus in the General Assembly for more than 10 years.

In 1990 President Mubarak of Egypt suggested expanding the scope of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East. He proposed that the Middle East should be declared a region free of all weapons of mass destruction, because the threats to the region had continued to grow as a result of the accumulation of arms in the region. This proposal was well received by the international community. In this context, the European Community and its member States welcome the Israeli Prime Minister's statement in the General Assembly on 1 October that Israel is ready to pursue the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

The Community and its member States believe that the early establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East would constitute an effective measure of non-proliferation and arms control. To be real and effective, such a zone would have to be freely negotiated and agreed to by all parties in the region.

The Gulf crisis demonstrated the extent to which the excessive accumulation of arms, as well as the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles capable of delivering those weapons, could endanger peace and security. Security Council resolution 687 (1991) recalled the objective of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East region. It also pointed to the threat that all weapons of mass destruction pose to peace and security in the area, as well as to the need to work towards the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of such weapons.

The Community and its member States believe that a successful outcome to the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid in October 1991 will pave the way for the establishment of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. We reiterate our support for the peace process and, in this context, will continue to contribute fully to the multilateral Working Group on Arms Control and Regional Security.

The Community and its member States believe that the most effective way to create a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East would be for all States to accede to the non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to comply fully with all its obligations. However, we recognise that there are other important confidence-building measures short of this objective. One is for

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

all States in the region to put all their nuclear material under full-scope safeguards arrangements, possibly on a regional basis. We are grateful, in this context, for the work done by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to devise model safeguards agreements, and we encourage him to continue his efforts.

The validity and normative value of the Convention on biological and toxin weapons was reaffirmed in the Final Declaration adopted on 27 September 1991 at the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The Declaration clearly stated the determination of States parties to exclude completely the possibility of bacteriological or biological agents and toxins as weapons. States Parties also expressed their belief that universal adherence to the Convention would enhance international peace and security.*

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* Mr. Patokallio (Finland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

The Community and its member States would like to take this opportunity to call on all States in the Middle East region to become parties to the Convention on biological and toxin weapons. As a biological weapons capability was clearly a possibility in the Middle East, as suggested by the recent events in the Gulf, it appears to us that all States in the region should have a particularly keen interest in full adherence to the Convention.

The Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention decided to establish an ad hoc group of governmental experts to identify and examine potential verification measures from a scientific and technical standpoint. The Community and its member States welcome the work carried out at the first meeting of the expert group and look forward to the successful completion of its efforts in 1993.

The Community and its member States welcome the successful conclusion of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction. We believe that the convention will make a major contribution to international security, particularly in areas of regional tension. We fervently hope that all States in the Middle East will demonstrate their commitment to the aim of a universal ban on chemical weapons, expressed in the 1989 Paris Declaration, by becoming original signatories to the convention. Universal adherence will be an important element for the convention. Adherence by all States in the Middle East, especially as this is an area where chemical weapons have been used on several occasions in the recent past, would contribute to the security of the region and of the world as a whole.

(Sir Michael Weston, United Kingdom)

The call to make the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction merits full support from the international community. The Community and its member States are pleased that such a call is now also reflected in draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.11, in its eighth preambular paragraph. This paragraph goes even further as, through its reference to general and complete disarmament, it involves conventional weapons too.

In conclusion, the Community and its member States express the hope that the Middle East will set out on the road of arms control and disarmament.

Mr. DONOWAKI (Japan): First, since I am speaking for the first time, I wish to join previous speakers in congratulating our Chairman on his assumption of the chairmanship of the First Committee at the forty-seventh session. The Committee is entrusted with very important tasks related to international security, arms control and disarmament matters at this historic juncture in a changing international environment. I feel sure that his long and rich experience in New York, Geneva and Cairo, as well as his well-known and highly respected competence, will facilitate our successful discharge of the tasks entrusted to us in the Committee.

The purpose of my statement today is to express Japan's wholehearted support of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18, which Ambassador Wagenmakers of the Netherlands has just introduced on behalf of its sponsors, which include Japan. Ambassador Wagenmakers enumerated 44 countries as sponsors of the draft resolution; I understand that with recent additions the total is now 47.

The draft resolution welcomes and endorses the Secretary-General's report (A/47/342 and Corr.1) on the technical procedures and adjustments to the annex to last year's resolution 46/36 L necessary for the effective operation of the

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and on the modalities for its early expansion. The Secretary-General's report, which was prepared with the assistance of a panel of governmental technical experts nominated by him on the basis of equitable geographical representation, was introduced to the Committee on 16 October by Ambassador Wagenmakers, who chaired the panel, and under whom I had the pleasure and honour of working as a member of the panel. Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18 not only welcomes and endorses the panel's report, but also reaffirms the resolve manifested last year in resolution 46/36 L to continue to work for an enhanced level of transparency in armaments.

Our resolve last year was indeed of signal importance. The debate in the First Committee on the establishment of the Register demonstrated the genuine interest of a vast number of member States in how to enhance security among nations in the aftermath of the cold war and the Gulf War. This was in consonance with the growing awareness that international security, arms control and disarmament matters are now more in the hands of all States Members of the United Nations rather than in the hands of super-Powers or nations in the former East or West blocs, and that the United Nations should play a greater role in the formation of a new world order.

Resolution 46/36 L, adopted last year after in-depth debates and intensive, wide-ranging consultations, represents a commonsense approach to the question. It was a modest step forward to enhanced transparency in armaments, but was a clear departure from the past in that it was action-oriented and contained a built-in mechanism for improvement, review and expansion of the transparency device it established.

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

In accordance with the resolution, the panel of governmental technical experts made its best efforts to elaborate the technical procedures needed for the newly created Register of Conventional Arms and made adjustments to the annex to last year's resolution necessary for the Register's effective operation.

I have little to add to the excellent statement by the Chairman of the panel made on 16 October in introducing the panel's report. The panel had to meet in three demanding sessions earlier this year and had to work hard to strike a balance between the international cause of promoting greater transparency in military matters and the inherent right of States to individual and collective self-defence. The outcome was a consensus report which contains a manual-type guidance to Member States, in returning data and information to the Register, as to what categories of arms should be reported and how, starting from this calendar year's arms transfers, as well as available background information regarding their military holdings, procurement through national production, and relevant policies. The report should serve as a solid basis for the Register's smooth implementation, with the wide participation of Member States.

The report also contains the result of the panel's considerations on the modalities for early expansion of the Register's scope. These considerations should also serve as useful material for the Register's early expansion, the procedure for which is set out in last year's resolution.

In this connection, Japan welcomes the Secretary-General's report, "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold-war era", in

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

which he commends the results of the panel's work and assures us that the United Nations

> "will do all that it can to make the Register an efficient and successful service for Member States." (A/C.1/47/7, para. 36)

Japan is of the view that the Office for Disarmament Affairs should be staffed adequately to operate and develop the Register and disarmament database and to be able to deal with growing disarmament tasks in today's world.

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

Furthermore, Japan looks forward to the role the Conference on Disarmament can play in this field of enhanced transparancy in armaments, as requested in resolution 46/36 L. This year, the Conference on Disarmament initiated deliberations on the subject. This may be a sign that, after the successful completion of the Convention on chemical weapons, the Conference on Disarmament may come to grips with the new requirements of our times in the field of arms control and disarmament.

On the question of the United Nations Register, I would be amiss if I did not refer to the Tokyo Workshop on Transparency in Armaments, which was held from 1 to 3 June this year. This was a seminar hosted by my Government in order to contribute to the cause of enhanced transparency in armaments and to the effective implementation of the United Nations Register. In addition to 17 panel members, prominent governmental experts from 8 other non-panel Member States who showed active interest last year on the question of the United Nations Register were invited. The three-day seminar proved to be extremely useful in exploring and deepening common understanding on the nature of the United Nations Register as a global confidence-building measure. Since the Register was a departure from past practices, it was only natural that concerns and apprehensions were expressed. However, it was encouraging to note that there was a broad agreement among participants that this new path should be given a chance to be tried.

Indeed, there was an agreement that this modest step, which may turn out to be a bold step forward, should be given a chance to see whether it works in our search for a better world order, with the United Nations playing an increasingly greater role.

(Mr. Donowaki, Japan)

For all the reasons I have just given, Japan is of the view that draft resolution A/C.1.47/L.18 deserves serious attention and wholehearted support from all Member States. Since the draft resolution is essentially technical and procedural in nature, and at the same time is meant to keep up last year's resolve and momentum, Japan believes that it should be adopted by consensus without a vote.

Mr. PARK (Republic of Korea): Since this is the first time I have spoken in the Committee, may I express my sincere congratulations to Ambassador Elaraby of Egypt on his election as Chairman of the First Committee. I have no doubt that his eminent leadership will guide us through to successful deliberations on the various issues before the First Committee.

I would like briefly to comment on draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18, entitled "Transparency in Armaments", just introduced by the representative of the Netherlands and further elaborated on by the representatives of Japan and the European Community.

In recent years, the international community has been giving greater attention to the importance of transparency and openness in relations between States for reasons obvious to all of us. It is no coincidence, therefore, that international dialogue is focusing with renewed vigour on confidence-building measures and, in particular, on ways to promote transparency and openness in military matters, including the area of arms transfers.

My delegation is encouraged to see substantive measures being implemented to this end. A global focus, as well as the corresponding efforts of the international community, contributed to the near-unanimous adoption of the landmark resolution (46/36 L), entitled "Transparency in Armaments". Clearly,

(Mr. Park, Republic of Korea)

a solid foundation for confidence-building on a global level was thereby established.

The consensus report compiled by the Panel of Governmental Technical Expérts, which has successfully agreed on technical procedures and adjustments to the annex of resolution 46/36 L, represents one more convincing reason for our optimism and has provided further impetus to our concerted efforts to enhance transparency in the military field in general.

During the general debate of this Committee, my delegation expressed its great satisfaction that the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms had been established and that the panel of governmental experts had produced its consensus report, containing a standardized reporting form. As one of the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18, my delegation fully endorses the consensus report of the panel and renews its commitment to participate actively in the operation of the Register.

My delegation shares the view that there are many areas in which the Register will have to be improved and refined. For example, the parameters of the Register should be clarified in more detail, a task for which the list of arms in the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) can serve as a useful example. The expansion of the scope of the Register to include military holdings and procurement through national production will have to be further addressed in the future, both at the 1993 Conference on Disarmament and in the governmental expert group to be established in 1994.

Although there are many questions still to be answered with regard to the Register, my delegation believes that this is the time to put into action what we have already agreed to thus far. Shortcomings can be addressed as we implement the agreement.

(Mr. Park, Republic of Korea)

As the Chairman of the Panel of Governmental Experts stated in his statement on 16 October, the responsibility now lies with Member States. We must now set aside minor differences; and we must do so by recognizing the Register's potential to contribute to enhancing transparency in armaments. Providing early warning of those arms build-ups which exceed legitimate security needs and curbing destabilizing arms transfers are two of the main worthy goals to pursue.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18, which we sincerely hope will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. ZAHRAN (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): Following the introduction by Ambassador Wagenmakers, the representative of the Netherlands, of draft resolution A/C1/47/L.18, the delegation of Egypt would like to make some observations in that connection.

First, I shall make those observations in my capacity under the mandate given by the Conference on Disarmament in its session of 1992, as special coordinator, to chair its meetings and to conduct informal consultations on the implementation of the mandate of the Conference, emanating from General Assembly resolution 46/36 L. The report on the Conference was drawn up on the outcome of the discussions on the subject in pursuance of that mandate

This is included in the report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its current session.

At this point I should like to express my satisfaction over the efforts made by all delegations in the course of the Conference's informal disucssions.

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

The various groups did not express any views or take any positions as groups. The inverventions and contributions made, were made by every delegation individually. The outcome was a number of objective and constructive views and proposals which have been reflected by the Conference's report. We note here that the report did not try to reach consensus positions on any of the views and proposals put forward because of time constraints.

Those views and proposals, which focused on the concept in paragraphs 12 and 14 of General Assembly resolution 46/36 L, will be of help when the Conference on Disarmament resumes its deliberations on this subject, within the framework of an ad hoc committee, at its 1993 session, on the basis of the resolution that will be adopted on the subject by the General Assembly at the session.

It is to be noted here that the Conference was not able to make a larger achievement in 1992 because the highest priority in its deliberations was given to the conclusion of the draft Convention on the prohibition of chemical weapons which is before the current session of the General Assembly.

Several delegations expressed the view that the Conference on Disarmament should not focus solely on and accord the highest priority, next year, to the question of transparency in armaments but should accord the highest priority to achieving progress on the items relating to nuclear weapons and, at the same time, devote the necessary length of time and amount of effort to discussing the draft resolution and implementing the Conference's mandate on the subject of transparency in armaments on the basis of the draft resolution that has been submitted and resolution 46/36 L.

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

The Conference, at its 1993 session, will have to take into account the report of the panel of governmental technical experts contained in the report of the Secretary-General, document A/47/342.

The delegation of Egypt, on this ocasion, would like to commend the efforts of the panel of governmental technical experts on the operation of the Register in the relevant report before the current session of the General Assembly. We pay special tribute to the efforts of Ambassador Wagenmaker of the Netherlands who chaired the panel of governmental technical experts.

On this occasion, we should like to state that the delegation of Egypt has several observations to make on the procedure and substance of the study, especially with regard to the part concerning the mechanisms of expanding the scope of the Register. The delegation of Egypt would have hoped for a more profound study of the subject by the panel of governmental technical experts in line with the clear mandate given to the panel by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/36 L.

The Conference on Disarmament will also have to take into account the achievements of the previous session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) on objective information on military matters. The Conference will also make use of the document which the Conference on Disarmament has requested its Secretariat to prepare, namely, a compilation of the transparency measures that have been adopted at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels in the area of armaments. Hence the importance of the need for all delegations to provide the Secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament at an early date with all the measures they propose in this

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

respect, so that the Secretariat of the Conference may be able to incorporate such information in the proposed report with a view to achieving the desired progress in the Conference's deliberations, next year.

I should like also to underscore some of the considerations already mentioned during the general debate in the First Committee and dealt with in the statement of Egypt.

First, transparency in armaments is a subject that is part of confidence-building measures. It should be achieved within the context of a favourable political climate as part of an integrated process aimed at reducing tension at the regional level.

Secondly, the importance of the application of the principle of transparency in armaments stems from the understanding that such transparency would include all the categories and classes of weapons in the possession of all States, on an equal footing and in a balanced fashion. This makes it necessary that the Register's data should cover not only conventional weapons but also all types of weapons of mass destruction, all their components and all their delivery systems. In addition, transfers of the high technology used in the manufacture of weapons should be included in the Register. The Register should also include data of the nationally produced armaments, as well as all stockpiles on the national territories of States whether those stockpiles are directly owned by the State or owned by another party under bilateral, regional or multilateral arrangements.

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

Thirdly, we have requested a clarification of some vague and ambiguous provisions contained in resolution 46/36 L. We regret that the draft resolution submitted to the First Committee, contained in document A/C.1/47/L.18, did not clarify the meaning of the expression "military holdings" which, in our view, also means "stockpiles". There has been disagreement on this and on the expression "procurement through national production", in the informal consultations that took place within the framework of the Conference on Disarmament. We have requested a clarification of this ambiguity that would do away with the deficiency so that domestic production and procurement resulting from such production would be covered in unequivocal terms in the text submitted to the Committee.

We regret that the sponsors of the draft resolution have failed to clarify those ambiguities whereas such clarification could have enabled the Conference on Disarmament at its next session to cover more ground in pursuance of its mandate under resolution 46/36 L.

Regarding the draft resolution submitted yesterday by the representative of Mexico on the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, contained in document A/C.1/47/L.37, the Egyptian delegation supports the draft resolution and joins the list of its sponsors. This support is consonant with Egypt's position which has been expressed previously in all forums, including the general debate in the Committee. In its statement to the Committee on 28 October, the Egyptian delegation made it clear that Egypt attaches great importance to the conclusion, at the earliest possible time, of a convention on a comprehensive nuclear-test ban treaty. The Egyptian delegation expressed its regret at the

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

failure of all efforts made thus far in the 1992 session of the Conference on Disarmament to re-establish a special commission on a nuclear-test ban despite the improvement in the international climate and the flexibility shown by the Group of 21 in the Conference regarding the negotiating mandate of the special commission.

Our position is rooted in our firm belief that a comprehensive nuclear-test ban is a vital and crucial step on the road to halting the vertical nuclear arms race and a step that would have significant implications for the preparations for the forthcoming NPT conference scheduled for 1995 - indeed, for the future of the NPT itself. The preparations for convening the Conference and for the holding of the first session of the preparatory committee in 1993 are the subject of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/47/L.6. We, together with the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37, welcome the nuclear-test moratorium by France, the Russian Federation and the United States. We reaffirm the extreme importance of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban which, in our view, is a step in the right direction toward the conclusion of a complete and comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty that would be complied with by all States under any circumstances.

The conclusion of such a treaty will be a crucial step towards halting the improvement and development of nuclear weapons and towards the halting of the vertical and horizontal proliferation of such weapons. Such a step will pave the way toward nuclear disarmament.

Included within this framework, is the vital role assigned to the Conference on Disarmament in achieving progress in negotiations on the provisions of a comprehensive test-ban treaty and the importance of

(Mr. Zahran, Egypt)

cooperation by all members of the Conference in re-establishing the ad hoc committee on a nuclear-test ban, with an appropriate mandate, for the year 1993.

This will make it possible to resume the Conference's deliberations which started in 1990 in line with operative paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 of draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37.

The delegation of Egypt hopes that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. FUJITA (Brazil): The Brazilian delegation expresses its warm support for draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18 on transparency in armaments, which was introduced this morning by the representative of the Netherlands and which we joined in sponsoring.

Last year's General Assembly resolution 46/36 L, concerning the establishment of the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms, represented an important step in our common efforts to strengthen transparency and confidence-building in the field of transfers of conventional weapons. We are convinced that the work of the Panel of Governmental Technical Experts set up on the basis of that resolution provides valuable momentum towards attainment of those goals.

Brazil had the opportunity to participate in the work of the Panel, in which extensive, frank and fruitful discussions took place. In our view, the report submitted by the Panel is both constructive and useful and contains some seminal elements for future improvements in the functioning of the Register. It is important now that Member States should contribute to its successful consolidation by providing the Register with appropriate data and information.

(Mr. Fujita, Brazil)

As has been stated by my delegation on many occasions, transparency is not an end in itself but a step towards the adoption of effective measures in arms limitation and disarmament. As the Secretary-General indicated in his report on the occasion of Disarmament Week, "New dimensions of arms regulation in the post-cold war era":

> "... transparency is no substitute for reduction in arms but, when properly applied, it can be conducive to confidence-building among States and helpful in alerting the global community to excessive accumulations of armaments." (A/C.1/47/7, para. 34)

In this regard, while welcoming the commencement of the operation of the Register by next year, we note with concern the continuing transfers of sophisticated weapons systems internationally. As pointed out by the Secretary-General in the same report:

> "Production overcapacities and surplus equipment in industrialized States are now increasingly feeding arms markets in parts of the developing world." (ibid., para. 30)

We urge Member States to exercise due restraint in the transfers of armaments, particularly in situations of tension or conflict, as they are called upon to do in resolution 46/36 L.

Finally, my delegation would like to stress that in the new international environment, in which we are given the opportunity to build a new agenda for peace and a new agenda for development, the activities of the United Nations in the fields of disarmament and development should be promoted in a coordinated and mutually reinforcing manner and not at the expense of one another. In this respect it is the understanding of my delegation that the allocation of resources for the operation of the Register will come both from

(Mr. Fujita, Brazil)

extra-budgetary and from existing resources, but as far as the latter - existing resources - are concerned, it shall not prejudice existing priorities. On this understanding, my delegation expresses its hope that draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18 will be adopted by consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind members of the Committee that, in accordance with the Committee's programme of work and timetable, Friday, 6 November, at 6 p.m. is the deadline for the submission of draft resolutions under agenda items 67 and 69, relating to international security. I urge members wishing to submit draft resolutions under those agenda items kindly to do so as soon as possible.

I call upon Mr. Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee, to make a number of announcements.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the First Committee): I would like to inform the Committee that the following States have become co-sponsors of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.8: France;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.15: Canada, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.18: Samoa;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.20: Brazil and the Netherlands;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.17: Viet Nam;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.24: the Niger and Ukraine;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.25: Paraguay and Senegal;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.34: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Costa Rica and Myanmar;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.36: Costa Rica, Samoa and Ireland;

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Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.37: Viet Nam;

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.38: the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Malaysia; and

Draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.42: the Netherlands, Samoa and Iceland.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.